

REMARKS

The examiner requires restriction between a product (Group I, claims 1-14, drawn to a hybrid protein) and a process of use (Group II, claims 15-20, drawn to a method of inducing follicular maturation by administering the hybrid protein). The examiner further requires a separate election of species for each of sequences a and b.

Applicants elect without traverse Group I, claims 1-14, and the species of G) IL-6 and K) hCG for examination on the merits.

It is understood however that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

Applicants have elected claims directed to a product and it is further understood that upon allowance of a product claim, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined pursuant to the provisions of rejoinder practice under MPEP 821.04.

Appln. No. 10/724,226
Response dated October 12, 2006
Reply to Office action of September 29, 2006

Favorable consideration and early allowance are
respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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